

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4119

INFO USMISSION USBERLIN

AMEMBASSY BERLIN

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BONN 18105

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR GW GE WB

SUBJECT: FRG-GDR TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS

REFS: (A) BONN 17505; (B) BONN 17296

BEGIN SUMMARY. ACCORDING TO THE FRG BONN GROUP REPRESENTATIVE, THE FRG IS NOT EXPECTING AN ALLIED RESPONSE AT THIS TIME OF RECENT QUESTIONS CONCERNING A POSSIBLE INCREASED ROLE FOR THE BERLIN SENAT IN THE FRG-GDR TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS. RATHER, THE INTENT OF SANNE'S REQUEST TO THE THREE ALLIES (REFTEL B) WAS TO ASK THE ALLIES TO BE PREPARED TO RESPOND QUICKLY TO SUCH A REQUEST IF A SENAT ROLE SHOULD BECOME NECESSARY AS THE NEGOTIATIONS PROCEED. END SUMMARY.

1. AT TRIPARTITE MEETING OCTOBER 30, US REP INITIATED AN EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON HOW TO RESPOND TO THE REQUESTS SANNE HAD PUT TO THE ALLIES ON OCTOBER 21 WITH REGARD TO POSSIBLE SENAT INVOLVEMENT IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GDR
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(REF B). THE ENSUING DISCUSSION REVEALED DIVERGENT

UNDERSTANDINGS OF THE NATURE OF SANNE'S REQUESTS, WITH THE BRITISH REP CONFESSING THAT HE AND HIS AMBASSADOR, BOTH OF WHOM ARE FAIRLY NEW TO THE SUBJECT MATTER, HAD NOT REALIZED THAT SANNE'S RAPID-FIRE PRESENTATION IN GERMAN HAD INCLUDED ANY REQUESTS AT ALL OTHER THAN ONE RELATED TO THE TELTOW CANAL.

2. WHILE US AND FRENCH REPS WERE BASICALLY IN AGREEMENT ON WHAT SANNE HAD SAID, US REP NOTED THAT AT LEAST ONE OF SANNE'S REQUESTS (THAT CONCERNING THE OPENING OF ADDITIONAL RAIL PASSENGER STATIONS INSIDE WEST BERLIN) MIGHT HAVE BEEN OVERTAKEN BY SUBSEQUENT DEVELOPMENTS AT THE RAILROAD SCHEDULING CONFERENCE IN STUTTGART (REF A). IT WAS THUS AGREED THAT FURTHER TRIPARTITE DISCUSSION SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL THE FRG BONN GROUP REP (LUECKING), WHO HAD ALSO ATTENDED THE SANNE BRIEFING, COULD BE ASKED FOR CLARIFICATION.

3. LUECKING'S EXPLANATION AT NOVEMBER 4 BONN GROUP MEETING WAS THAT, ASIDE FROM ASKING THE AMBASSADORS TO GIVE NECESSARY AUTHORIZATION FOR SENAT-GDR TALKS ON TELTOW TO COMMENCE, SANNE HAD NOT POSED ANY SPECIFIC REQUESTS REQUIRING RESPONSES NOW. HE HAD SAID, ACCORDING TO LUECKING. THAT AT SOME POINT IN THE FRG-GDR NEGOTIATIONS IT MIGHT BE NECESSARY FOR THE SENAT TO DISCUSS WITH THE GDR ONE OR ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE PROBLEM OF OPENING ADDITIONAL CROSSING POINTS AND THAT, IF THE FRG DID COME TO THE ALLIES WITH A REQUEST FOR AUTHORIZATION FOR THE SENAT TO PLAY SUCH A ROLE, HE HOPED IT WOULD BE POSSIBLE FOR THE ALLIES TO GIVE QUICK CONSENT. IN RESPONSE TO A DIRECT QUESTION, LUECKING STATED THAT IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE WAS NO SPECIFIC REQUEST (OTHER THAN TELTOW) FOR ALLIED ACTION OUTSTANDING AT THE MOMENT.

4. ASKED BY THE US REP ABOUT THE STATUS OF TALKS AT THE RAILROAD SCHEDULING CONFERENCE IN STUTTGART, LUECKING INITIALLY INDICATED THAT THERE WAS NOTHING OF INTEREST TO REPORT, AS THE NEGOTIATIONS HAD NOT BEEN CONCLUDED. REMINDED, HOWEVER, THAT THE FRG HAD SOUGHT ALLIED VIEWS, AFTER THE HONECKER-SCHMIDT HELSINKI TALKS, ON ALLOWING CONFIDENTIAL

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THE REICHSBAHN AND THE BUNDESBahn TO REACH AGREEMENT AT THAT CONFERENCE ON ADDITIONAL RAIL STOPS (BONN 12759), AND THAT THIS WAS NOW ONE OF THE SUBJECTS ON WHICH SANNE WAS ASKING THE ALLIES TO BE PREPARED TO AUTHORIZE THE SENAT TO NEGOTIATE, LUECKING READILY AGREED TO UNDERTAKE TO PROVIDE UPDATED INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

5. COMMENT: LUECKING'S EXPLANATION REMOVES ANY URGENCY
FROM REACHING AN ALLIED POSITION ON AN INCREASED ROLE
FOR THE SENAT IN THE ONGOING TRANSIT NEGOTIATIONS. WE
WILL, HOWEVER, SEEK FURTHER TRIPARTITE EXCHANGES OF
VIEWS IN THE NEAR FUTURE.
HILLENBRAND

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